

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 13th March 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to care for creation
Bible Passage: Genesis 1:1 - 2:2

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What about creation fascinates and excites you the most?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- Are there any questions this passage raises?

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by highlighting that one of the primary purposes of creation is to give glory to God. Psalm 19, 150, 148 all encourage creation to give glory to God.

- What do you think the Psalmist means when he writes, 'The heavens declare the glory of God'?
- What about creation would you describe as being glorious?
- Read Romans 1:20-21: what do you think Paul means here?

Stu went on to point out that, by virtue of the fact that we are made in God's image, we have been sent to care for creation, so creation care is part of the mission of God and a command that has never been rescinded. He gathered the thought, 'I am sending you...to care for creation' around three offices found in Scripture of king, priest and prophet.

- What do you think it means to subdue and rule over creation? How can this be expressed now on our frontlines?
- What kind of kingly rule are we to exercise over creation?
- How do we fulfil our priestly role working and caring for creation?

Stu made the point that part of God's mission to redeem all creation through Christ Jesus and so caring for creation is a part of God's mission.

- Read Colossians 1:15-20 - what does this passage say about the relation of Jesus to creation?
- How has Jesus reconciled all things?
- How does the truth that Jesus reconciled all things encourage us in our task of caring for creation (compare Romans 8:19-21)?

Stu closed by saying there are three ways we can fulfil our kingly, priestly and prophetic role of caring for creation: worship and be thankful, plant something and go green.

- What ways can you express thanksgiving for creation on your frontline?
- Is there a way you can be 'green' or encourage this on your frontline?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>